

SHARING THE TRAILS

Guidelines For
**Bicyclists
 Runners
 Hikers
 Equestrians
 Trail Users With Dogs**

**Midpeninsula Regional
 Open Space District**

Regional Open Space

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

330 Distel Circle • Los Altos, California 94022-1404


Phone: 650-691-1200 • Fax: 650-691-0485

E-mail: mrosd@openspace.org

Web site: www.openspace.org

Cover photo by Sharon Hall.

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A SIMPLE REMINDER

Please respect the environment and be considerate of others. Thank you for doing your part.

THE MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

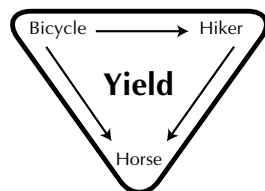
The District is an independent special district created in 1972 by the voters of northwestern Santa Clara County. Southern San Mateo County joined the District in 1976. The District has preserved over 46,000 acres of public land and manages 24 open space preserves within its boundaries from San Carlos to Los Gatos. The District's purpose is to create a regional greenbelt of unspoiled public open space lands in order to permanently protect the area's natural resources and to provide for public use and enjoyment.

Public lands managed by the District include wetlands, redwood forests, mountain vista points, creekside trails, historic sites, and more. Funding is provided by a small share of the annual total property tax revenues collected within District boundaries.

All preserves are open free of charge to the public every day of the year, from sunrise to sunset. The preserves provide permanently protected wildlife habitats and plant communities, and are a respite for visitors seeking refuge from the pressures of urban life.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about the open space preserves, please call, write, or visit us: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District; 330 Distel Circle, Los Altos, CA 94022-1404. Our telephone number is 650-691-1200, and electronic mail may be sent to info@openspace.org. Our web site is www.openspace.org.



SHARING THE TRAILS

Welcome! For many visitors, the appeal of the open space preserves is the chance to get away from the hectic pace of everyday life. While the preserves offer peace and tranquility, it is likely that you will encounter other visitors enjoying a variety of recreational activities.

Several uses are permitted on some trails, while others are limited to a specific use. For the safety of all visitors and the protection of the open space preserves, please follow all District regulations. Following the basic trail etiquette guidelines in this brochure will allow everyone to enjoy the preserves.

Here's how you can help:

- **Please be courteous to other trail users.** Always yield to equestrians. Allow other trail users to pass. When in a group, avoid blocking the trail.
- **Stay alert.** Horses and slower moving individuals may be startled by faster moving trail users. Make your presence known to other trail users well in advance, particularly when approaching from behind.
- **Stay on designated trails.** Prevent injury to yourself and damage to natural resources by staying on designated trails.
- **Observe trail speed limits.** A 15-mph speed limit is enforced on all trails (5-mph when passing). At no time may a trail user operate at a speed greater than is reasonable, prudent, or safe, as conditions warrant.
- **Observe District regulations.** You are responsible for knowing open space preserve regulations. A complete list of all District ordinances is available at the District office.

BICYCLISTS

- Bicyclists are required to wear ANSI- or Snell-approved bicycle helmets on all District lands.
- Control your speed at all times and obey the 15-mph speed limit. Slowly approach blind turns in anticipation of other trail users and obstacles that are beyond your view.
- Always yield to all other trail users. On wide trails, slow down and pass with care (5-mph speed limit when passing).
- Ride only on trails designated for bicycle use. Off-trail use is strictly prohibited.
- Racing and reckless riding are prohibited.
- Horses and slower moving individuals may be startled by faster moving trail users. Make your presence known to other trail users well in advance, particularly when approaching from behind.
- When encountering equestrians and hikers on narrow trails, stop and wait for them to pass or signal you through.
- Yield to other bicyclists traveling uphill.

RUNNERS

- Slow down and allow oncoming hikers and equestrians to pass on one side of the trail.
- If you are approaching from behind, alert other trail users of your presence and pass carefully.
- Stop and wait for equestrians to pass or signal you through.
- When approaching bicyclists, slow down and pass when it is safe.

ATTACHMENT A HIKERS

- Always yield to equestrians.
- Be alert for approaching bicyclists and runners.
- If you are approaching from behind, alert other trail users of your presence and pass carefully.

EQUESTRIANS

- Some visitors may be intimidated by horses. When you meet other trail users, inform them of the safest way to pass.
- You are responsible for maintaining control over your horse at all times. If your horse is high-spirited, please warn other trail users.
- Ride only on trails designated for equestrian use. Off-trail use is strictly prohibited.

TRAIL USERS WITH DOGS

- Dogs are currently allowed on all trails at the following open space preserves: Coal Creek, Foothills, Fremont Older, Pulgas Ridge, including an off-leash area, Sierra Azul (Kennedy-Limekiln Area), St. Joseph's Hill, and Thornewood, as well as designated trails at Windy Hill and Long Ridge Open Space Preserves. Contact the District for maps and further information on preserves accessible to dogs.
- Dogs must be on a maximum six-foot leash at all times. Contact the District for guidelines on retractable leashes, and please clean up after your dog.
- Some trail users are frightened by dogs; communicate with others and always keep your dog under control.
- Because some dogs are unpredictable, step to one side of the trail with your dog to allow enough room for other trail users to pass.

